Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 10, 16, 26. Please add new Claims 28-36. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing:

1.   (Original) In a multithreaded computing environment, a method of processing computing tasks, comprising:

defining a plurality of worker threads, each thread capable of processing a task;

defining a plurality of task queues, each task queue capable of queuing a plurality of tasks;

associating each task queue with a respective worker thread; and

assigning a task to a task queue in an essentially random fashion.

2.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein assigning a task comprises selecting an empty task queue.

3.   (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein selecting comprises determining whether the selected task queue is in a busy state.

4.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising, from a worker thread, processing a task from the associated task queue.

5.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising, from a worker thread, processing a task from a task queue not associated with the thread.

6.   (Original) In a multithreaded computing environment, a method of processing computing threads, comprising:

defining a plurality of worker threads, each thread capable of processing a task;

defining a plurality of task queues, each task queue capable of queuing a plurality of tasks accessible by the worker threads;

associating each task queue with a respective worker thread;

assigning a task to an assigned task queue; and

in a worker thread not associated with the assigned task queue, processing the task

7.   (Original) The method of Claim 6 where assigning comprises selecting the assigned task queue based on an essentially random number.

8.   (Original) The method of Claim 6 wherein assigning comprises selecting an empty task queue.

9.   (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein selecting comprises determining whether the task queue is in a busy state.

10.   (Currently Amended) In a multithreaded computing environment, a system for processing tasks, comprising:

a plurality of worker threads, each thread capable of processing a task;

a plurality of task queues, each task queue capable of queuing a plurality of tasks and each task queue associated with a respective worker thread; and

a task scheduler for <u>assigning</u> a task to a task queue in an essentially random fashion.

11.   (Original) The system of Claim 10 wherein the task scheduler selects an empty task queue for assigning the task.

12.   (Original) The system of Claim 11 wherein the task scheduler further determines whether the selected task queue is in a busy state.

13.   (Original) The system of Claim 10 further comprising a worker thread processing a task from the associated task queue.

14.   (Original) The system of Claim 10 further comprising a worker thread processing a task from a task queue not associated with the thread.

15.   (Original) In a multithreaded computing environment, a system for processing computing threads, comprising:

      a plurality of worker threads, each thread capable of processing a task;

      a plurality of task queues, each task queue capable of queuing a plurality of tasks accessible by the worker threads and each task queue associated with a respective worker thread;

      a task scheduler for assigning a task to an assigned task queue; and

      wherein the assigned task is processed by a thread not associated with the assigned task queue.

16.   (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 15 ~~where~~ <u>wherein</u> the task scheduler selects the assigned task queue based on an essentially random number.

17.   (Original) The system of Claim 15 wherein the task scheduler selects an empty task queue for assigning the task.

18.   (Original) The system of Claim 17 wherein the task scheduler further determines whether the task queue is in a busy state.

19.   (Original) An article of manufacturing, comprising:

      a computer-readable medium;

a computer implemented program for processing computing tasks in a multithreaded computing environment embodied in the medium, the comprising instructions for:

defining a plurality of worker threads, each thread capable of processing a task;

defining a plurality of task queues, each task queue capable of queuing a plurality of tasks;

associating each task queue with a respective worker thread; and

assigning a task to a task queue in an essentially random fashion.

20.   (Original) The article of Claim 19 wherein the instructions for assigning a task comprise selecting an empty task queue.

21.   (Original) The article of Claim 20 wherein the instructions for selecting comprise determining whether the selected task queue is in a busy state.

22.   (Original) The article of Claim 19 further comprising instructions for processing, in a worker thread, a task from the associated task queue.

23.   (Original) The article of Claim 19 further comprising instructions for processing, in a worker thread, a task from a task queue not associated with the thread.

24.   (Original) An article of manufacture, comprising:

a computer-readable medium;

a computer-implemented program for processing computing threads, in a multithreaded computing environment embodied in the medium, the program comprising instructions for:

defining a plurality of worker threads, each thread capable of processing a task;

defining a plurality of task queues, each task queue capable of queuing a plurality of tasks accessible by the worker threads;

associating each task queue with a respective worker thread;

assigning a task to an assigned task queue; and

in a worker thread not associated with the assigned task queue, processing the task

25.   (Original) The article of Claim 24 where the instructions for assigning comprise selecting the assigned task queue based on an essentially random number.

26.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 24 wherein the instructions ~~for~~ assigning ~~comprises~~ comprise selecting an empty task queue.

27.   (Original) The method of Claim 26 wherein the instructions for selecting comprise determining whether the task queue is in a busy state.

28.   (New) In a multithreaded computing environment, a system for processing computing tasks, comprising:

means for defining a plurality of worker threads, each thread capable of processing a task;

means for defining a plurality of task queues, each task queue capable of queuing a plurality of tasks;

means for associating each task queue with a respective worker thread; and

means for assigning a task to a task queue in an essentially random fashion.

29.   (New) The system of Claim 28 wherein the means for assigning a task comprises means for selecting an empty task queue.

30.   (New) The system of Claim 29 wherein the means for selecting comprises determining whether the selected task queue is in a busy state.

31.   (New) The system of Claim 28 further comprising, from a worker thread, means for processing a task from the associated task queue.

32.   (New) The system of Claim 28 further comprising, from a worker thread, means for processing a task from a task queue not associated with the thread.

33.   (New) In a multithreaded computing environment, a method of processing computing tasks, comprising:

        defining a plurality of worker threads, each thread capable of processing a task;

        defining a plurality of task queues, each task queue capable of queuing a plurality of tasks;

        associating each task queue with a respective worker thread;

        assigning a task to an empty task queue in an essentially random fashion; and

        from a worker thread, processing a task from a task queue not associated with the thread.

34.   (New) The method of Claim 33 wherein assigning a task comprises selecting an empty task queue.

35.   (New) The method of Claim 34 wherein selecting comprises determining whether the selected task queue is in a busy state.

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36.   (New) The method of Claim 33 further comprising, from a worker thread, processing a task from the associated task queue.

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